

Troika at NBC

Casting a television news show can be an even more hazardous business than finding a compatible combination of stars for the movie "Myra Breckinridge." Network anchor men must be not only outstanding newsmen and acceptable "TV personalities" for up to 17 million viewers; they must also complement one another's talents. Thus, when Chet Huntley gave notice that he was leaving NBC's evening news show after thirteen and one-half years of partnership with David Brinkley, the network looked long and hard for a replacement before finally deciding to alter the show's format somewhat and to staff it from among NBC's own senior newsmen (NEWSWEEK, March 2). This week NBC was due to announce that Huntley would be re-

on their employers—that rank-and-file staffers be given an important role in editorial and corporate policy. One of the most effective ways of influencing the media Establishment, they have decided, is to turn publisher themselves, and this week a group of New York journalists is due to put out the first edition of Inside Media, a monthly newsletter designed to function as the conscience of the communications capital.

"Several years ago, I learned that it wasn't that my boss was a bastard; it was the way we worked that made me unhappy," says IM editor Art Alpert, a 37-year-old television producer who has put together news documentaries for WABC in New York and for the Public Broadcast Laboratory. "Journalism is not a craft. It's a product of corporations, a business." Similar in appearance to I.F.

P - Alpert, Art
P - Salant, Richard
P - Chancellor, John
P - McGee, Frank



Chancellor and McGee: Two for one and three for two

placed by two veteran reporters—National Affairs correspondent John Chancellor, 42, and Frank McGee, 48, who for the past five months has been anchor man on WNBC, the network's New York affiliate.

When the new format is introduced on Aug. 3, NBC will also begin running its half-hour show seven days a week, just as CBS has done for two months. Brinkley will remain as anchor man in Washington and McGee and Chancellor will both be stationed in New York. "I hope this will give me a chance to do some reporting," says McGee. "Right now it takes dynamite and a crowbar to get me out from behind my desk." There remains at least one problem, however. What will the network call the troika—the "Brinkley-Chancellor-McGee Report"?

An Inside View

Working newsmen in the U.S. first banded together in 1933 to form the American Newspaper Guild and demand that publishers guarantee them minimum salaries, sick leave and job security. These days more and more young newsmen, and newswomen, are joining together to make a different kind of demand

Stone's Bi-Weekly, Alpert's newsletter will be sold for 25 cents in city rooms, broadcasting studios and journalism schools. The first edition is heavily loaded with short items—many of them either trivial or pickups from other publications—but it also carries several longer articles, including an exposé of an FBI undercover agent posing as a news photographer and a piece by an anonymous contributor accusing newsmagazines of discriminating against women in writing jobs.

Error: IM recognizes that things often go wrong in the communications business not because of an Establishment conspiracy, but simply because of a breakdown in internal communications. The best article in its first issue recounts how a bureaucratic error frustrated CBS news president Richard Salant's attempt to fight the Justice Department's subpoena of the network's Black Panther film. Salant was prepared to refuse the government order and said so to New York Times television critic Jack Gould. But even after Salant's statement appeared in the Times, one of his aides still failed to get the message and turned the film over to a Justice Department courier. Salant confirms the accuracy of the IM account.